

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1- 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): A ~~reinforcement~~ reinforced cover apparatus for providing a sterile environment for a surgical tray ~~tray, the surgical tray~~ having an upper and lower surface and an outer peripheral edge, the apparatus comprising:

a) a first cover formed from flexible sheet material in an elongated tubular configuration having a closed end and an opposite open end; the open end of said first cover being installed over said tray by passing said first cover over the tray until the closed end of the cover is in contact with said tray, said first cover when in said position having a support area which corresponds with the upper surface of said surgical tray:

b) a second cover formed from a flexible material and having a configuration corresponding to said support area of said first cover and an outer peripheral edge, said second cover includes securement means which holds the second cover over the first cover and said surgical tray so that both covers are securely held in position on said tray and any excess material of said first cover is gathered and held in close proximity to the lower surface of said surgical tray to prevent the covers and tray from being unintentionally caught and the tray displaced.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A ~~reinforcement~~ reinforced cover apparatus as defined in claim 16 wherein the ~~securment~~ securement means of said second cover includes an outwardly extended skirt portion which is attached to the outer peripheral edge of said second cover, said skirt portion has an outer second edge which includes a tensioning means attached to the second edge so as to hold the second and first covers securely in position over said surgical tray.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A ~~reinforcement~~ reinforced cover apparatus as defined in claim 17 wherein said ~~securment~~ securement means includes an elastic strip formed within a hem formed around the second edge of said skirt portion of said second cover.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A ~~reinforcement~~ reinforced cover apparatus as defined in claim 16 wherein the securement means of said second cover includes a tensioning means provided in conjunction with the outer peripheral edge of said second cover.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A ~~reinforcement~~ reinforced cover apparatus as defined in claim 16 wherein the configuration of said second cover is sufficiently large so as to allow the second cover to at least partially overlap the outer peripheral edge of said surgical tray.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A ~~reinforcement~~ reinforced cover apparatus as defined in claim 20 wherein the second cover includes a reinforcement layer in the area corresponding to the upper surface of said surgical tray which prevents the covers from being cut or punctured which would compromise the sterile environment of the tray.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A ~~reinforcement~~ reinforced cover apparatus as defined in claim 21 wherein the reinforcement layer is attached to the second cover and is sufficiently large to overlap the outer peripheral edge of said surgical tray.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A ~~reinforcement~~ reinforced cover apparatus as defined in claim 22 wherein an outer surface of said reinforcement layer includes a non-skid coating which reduces accidental movement of instruments or equipment positioned on said ~~such~~ surgical tray.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A ~~reinforcement~~ reinforced cover apparatus as defined in claim 16 wherein said first and second covers are sterilized by a suitable process to provide a sterile environment for said surgical tray.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A ~~reinforcement~~ reinforced cover apparatus as defined in claim 16 wherein said second cover and ~~the support area of~~ said first cover are permanently joined together to form the ~~reinforcement~~ reinforced cover apparatus as in an integrated one-piece unit.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A ~~reinforcement~~ reinforced cover apparatus for providing a sterile environment for a surgical tray having an upper and lower surface area and an outer peripheral edge, said apparatus comprising:

a) a first cover formed from flexible sheet material in an elongated tubular configuration having a closed end and an opposite open end, said first cover being installed over said tray by passing the open end of said first cover over the tray until the closed end is in contact with said tray, said first cover when ~~in position~~ installed having a support area which corresponds to the upper surface of said surgical tray;

b) a second cover formed from a flexible material and having a configuration corresponding to said support area of said first cover and an outer peripheral edge, said second cover including a ~~securment~~ securement means which holds the second cover over the first cover and said surgical tray so that both covers are securely held in position on said tray and any excess materials of said first cover is gathered and held in close proximity to the lower surface of said surgical tray; and

c) said first cover and said second cover are at least partially attached in the support area of said first cover whereby the first and second covers form an integral one-piece unit which can be installed over said surgical tray in a combined single installation.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A method of providing a sterile environment for a surgical tray which includes the steps of;

a) installing a first sterile cover formed from a flexible sheet material in an elongated tubular configuration having a closed end and an opposite open end;

b) moving said open end of the first cover over said tray until said closed end of said first cover is in contact with an edge of said tray;

c) positioning a second cover over said first cover ~~and corresponding to the~~
so that said second cover corresponds to an upper surface of said surgical tray; and

d) pulling the edges of said second cover down and under the surgical tray and tensioning the edges of said second cover so as to tightly gather any excess material of said covers so as to hold the edges of the covers firmly against the under surface of said surgical tray so that the covers and tray can not be unintentionally caught which could displace said tray.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method of providing a sterile environment for a surgical tray as defined in claim 27 which further includes the step of permanently adhering the first and second covers in the area corresponding to the upper surface of said surgical tray so that they form a single integrated one-piece unit.